

Mason Properties Company

December 17, 2001

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Divisions
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530
Fax: 202-616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse,

I am pleased with the settlement of the Microsoft case because I believe that the terms of the agreement will benefit the United States tremendously.

It seems to me that Anti-trust laws were intended to protect consumers, not to protect companies from legitimate market competition. It's high time that tech companies other than Microsoft work on building their products up, rather than tearing down Microsoft's quality products.

AOL Time Warner, Oracle and other companies will have many opportunities to hinder Microsoft by abusing the settlement agreement. These competitors were disappointed when the Appeals Court took breakup off the table, but they'll find ways to use this settlement to inhibit Microsoft from competing in markets they dominate today, like Internet access, high-end servers, and instant messaging.

The enforcement provisions of this settlement agreement could enable these companies to slow innovation and delay product launches by filing multiple complaints. Enough already!

With the economy in bad shape, now is not the time for more litigation over this issue. I request that Judge Kollar Kotelly approve the proposed settlement, and I hope that Microsoft's competitors will act in good faith under its terms.

Sincerely,



Ronald Earl Mason
Former State Representative